

REMARKS

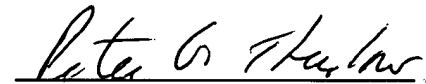
Further to the Response After Final Action dated June 16, 2004, Applicants hereby enclose a Declaration and Sworn Translation of Japanese Application No. 09-179566, which was filed July 4, 1997, from which the above-identified application claims priority. Since the Anderson patent has an effective filing date of May 19, 1998, which is later than the July 4, 1997 filing date, Applicants hereby request removal of the Anderson reference as a cited prior art reference.

Applicants note that one of Applicants' attorneys reviewed, by telephone on July 13, 2004, the above-identified application with Examiner Whipkey and the Examiner agreed that this Supplemental Response and Petition for Extension of Time (instead of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE)) is an acceptable response to this Advisory Action.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter G. Thurlow", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter G. Thurlow
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 47,138

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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